



移動山水 轉新故宮

**Moving Landscape
Renaissance of
Great Palace Museum Area**

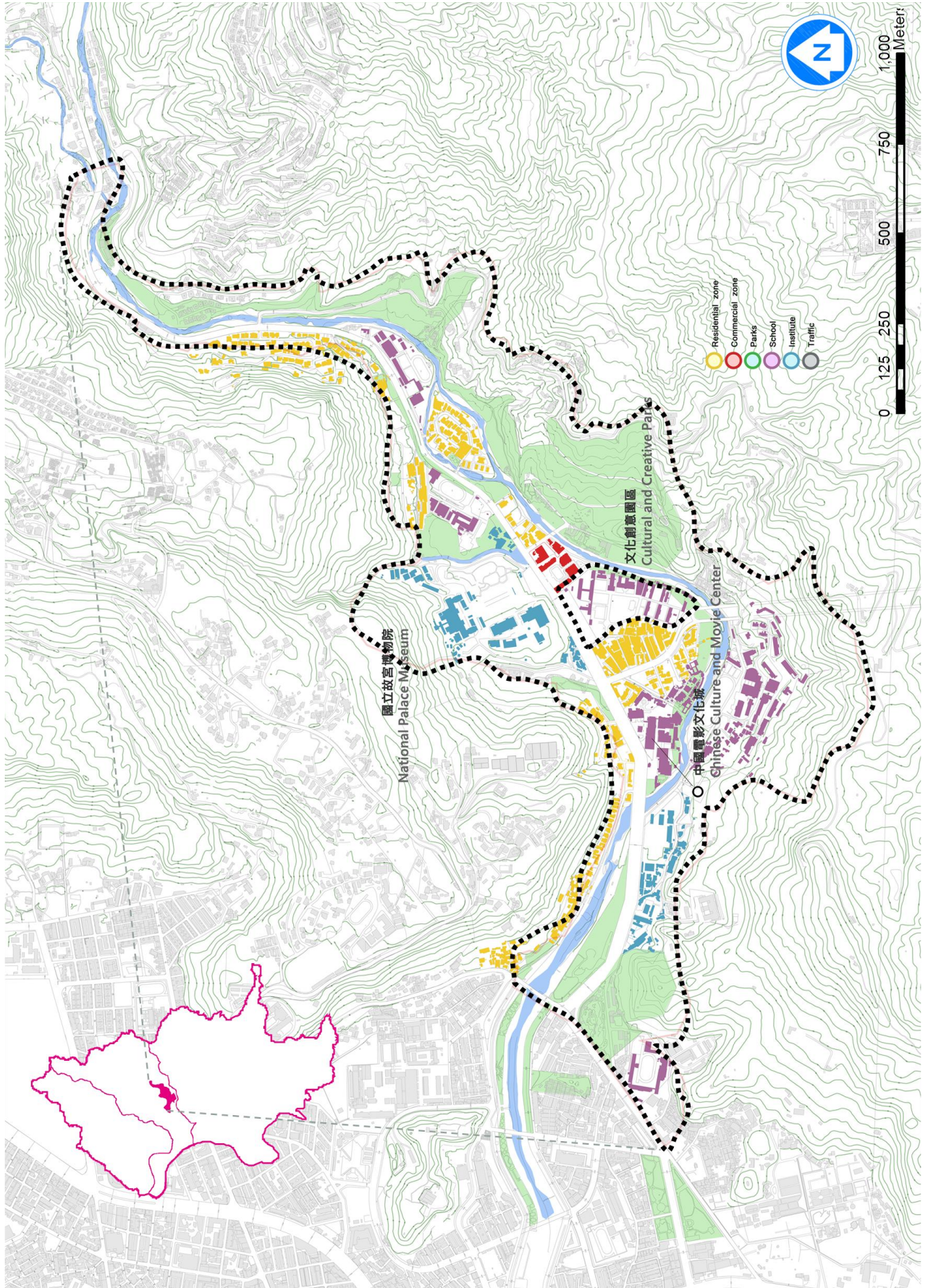


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▲ 計畫範圍圖

NATIONAL TAIPEI UNIVERSITY – NTPU

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**SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS
– ASSESSMENT OF PRACTICE**

SUMMARY

Urban sustainability is a major challenge at a time of growing concern for resource depletion, in particular fossil fuel, energy price increase and global economic slowdown. An energy-friendly approach to urban and landscape planning, including culture-oriented development, makes sense. It includes lower energy consuming urban forms, lower requirement for motorised transport, achieved through higher density urban clusters, and pedestrian friendly access from railway stations to these clusters, while putting overall emphasis on quality of life.

The present paper illustrates these concepts through a number of specific foreign case histories of possible consequence to the context of Taipei today:

1. Preparation by the City Government of the bid for the 2016 Biennial World Capital of Design (title held by Helsinki in 2012).

The first International Design Alliance (IDA) congress, held in Taipei in October 2011, attracted world-wide media attention and generated a positive image of the City, which hosts one of the 5 most important museums in the World, has numerous cultural projects and has launched an international Cooperation project to further enhance its Museum District.

2. The enhanced Taipei Museum District as part of the bid.

The aim of this enhanced District is to optimally link the cultural institutions, the cultural industry, and the unique landscape of the area. The presentation illustrates art hubs in different foreign capitals (Berlin, Vienna and Brussels).

The museum of aboriginal cultures – presently outside the hub and mainly of local interest – could be revitalised by becoming a museum of the Pacific heritage.

In the case of Brussels the old colonial museum has been totally revitalised by becoming the Museum of Africa.

A specificity of the Taipei Museum district is the fact that a stream is passing through it.

Climate change is to be kept in mind, as one of its forecasted effects is the increased frequency of floods.

Taiwan is situated in one of the “hotspots” to be most affected by global warming.

Increased protection against flooding can be achieved through urban design with nature and policies to reduce soil sealing. Cities have invested in high design quality storm water capture investment and a network of paths and bike trails for nature lovers. Taipei has developed artificial wetlands (Fuchau wetland in New Taipei).

The presentation illustrates this point by a foreign example (Bingham River Park in Singapore).

3. The City as an example of urban design.

Stressing the urban identity of Taipei the Mayor specifically included, among the assets of Taipei for winning the 2016 bid, the urban rehabilitation of the historic parts of the city. Taipei has indeed a strong urban identity, shaped by the Japanese period and the policies implemented by the Republic of China government (land reform and land taxation). It is to be noted that this is also the case for Helsinki, shaped by two centuries of strong water and land use planning, starting with the autonomy granted to Finland by Russia in 1808).

3.1. Historic city urban design.

In presenting the bid the Mayor specifically mentioned the recently expropriated historic BOPILIAO area. Its relation to the film MONGA, which was shot there, could also be linked to the film industry development that is part of the National Museum study area.

Indeed the BOPILIAO area could become – as confirmed by expert Prof. Mii Fu-kuo - a full-blown tourist district, anchored around Bopiliao and Longshan.

Successful examples of tasteful old town rehabilitation exist elsewhere and illustrate this point (Amsterdam, Paris, Siena, Cosenza, Bruges).

3.2. Land policy.

The BOPILIAO area has been expropriated and skilfully restored, but new uses remain limited. The government could explore the possibility to grant leases on plots that have been expropriated. Admittedly a legal difficulty arises from the fact that the former shop owners may contest these new commercial activities. Public private partnerships are a potential way out. Other ways to restore the historic houses would be to contract with owners of plots that need to be restored, without expropriating them.

In line with international new trends in urban design, it should be possible for Taipei to avoid private owners tearing down historic places and replacing them by picturesque old-looking fakes (“disneylandization”), as practiced in many cities. This could surely reinforce the identity of Taipei and its image of seamless evolution, as compared to Mainland cities history.

This point is illustrated with some positive and negative examples abroad.

3.3. Urban climate change.

The old town conservation also has to take into account the effects of climate change. Taipei has built walls protecting the old town, with openings that can be closed when typhoons are announced. Walling against typhoons of increasing violence may soon prove necessary. This can be linked to multi-use investments. There are examples of high walls combined with “housing with a view”. Artificial hills treated as parks can combine leisure and protection against floods (Wuhan). The presentation presents some climate-rehabilitation examples (Delta and Sigma plans in the Low Countries).

BIO

Pierre Laconte has Doctorates in Laws and in Economics from the Louvain University and is Dr h.c., Edinburgh Napier University. He was one of the three planners in charge of the Louvain University “Groupe Urbanisme Architecture”. This team was entrusted in 1969 with the planning and architectural coordination of the new university town of Louvain-la-Neuve near Brussels, along the model of the historic town of Louvain. Initially agricultural land has become a major urban growth pole south of Brussels and hosts two new museums. It has many green features and its centre is entirely pedestrian. It received the Abercrombie Award of the International Union of Architects UIC. About his publications see www.ffue.org.